

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUITO 00564 232007Z

61

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 PC-01 /071 W

----- 013455

R 231930Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4161

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 0564

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EC, PE

SUBJECT: ECUADOR/PERU BORDER SITUATION

REF: QUITO 0213 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL HAS CONFIRMED ESSENCE OF REFTEL TO EFFECT THAT DOCUMENTS WERE SIGNED LATE LAST YEAR BETWEEN ECUADOR AND PERU IN WHICH PERU "ACKNOWLEDGES EXISTENCE OF TERRITORIAL PROBLEM". SAME OFFICIAL BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT AGREEMENT ON FINAL DETAILS OF ANY TERRITORIAL READJUSTMENT WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE TWO COUNTRIES TO PUBLICLY SHELVE THE ISSUE ARE AT LEAST SIX MONTHS AWAY AND PROBABLY MORE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF JANUARY 22, FOREIGN OFFICE TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY OFFICIAL, OSWALDO RAMIREZ, CONFIRMED THAT INTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BORDER ISSUE TOOK PLACE BETWEEN ECUADOR AND PERU IN LATE 1974. RAMIREZ FURTHER CONFIRMED EARLIER REPORT (SEE REFTEL) TO EFFECT THAT GOE AND GOP ACTUALLY SIGNED DOCUMENTS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 QUITO 00564 232007Z

IN WHICH PERU "ACKNOWLEDGES THE EXISTENCE OF A

TERRITORIAL PROBLEM". DETAILS OF A TERRITORIAL ARRANGEMENT REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT AND RAMIREZ SPECULATED THAT THIS WOULD BE A MATTER OF AT LEAST SIX MONTHS AND PROBABLY LONGER.

3. REVIEWING DEVELOPMENTS WHICH LED TO THESE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS, RAMIREZ SAID THAT TALKS WERE FIRST PROMPTED BY BORDER FLAP OF LATE 1973 WHEN GOP ACCORDED AN OIL CONCESSION IN THE UNDEMARCATED REGION OF THE MARANON RIVER. ACCORDING TO RAMIREZ, GOP WITHDREW CONCESSION FOR OIL EXPLORATION NORTH OF THE MARANON FOLLOWING SUBSEQUENT GOE PROTESTS. THEN BOTH SIDES DECIDED TO TRY TO WORK OUT SOME MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE STATEMENT ON THE TERRITORIAL QUESTION IN A CALM AND REASONED WAY, SEEKING TO AVOID HEATED PUBLIC DEBATE ON WHAT IS A VERY SENSITIVE ISSUE FOR BOTH COUNTRIES.

4. IN REPLY TO QUESTION, RAMIREZ SAID HE DID NOT THINK THAT PERU'S POSITION WAS MOTIVATED BY DESIRE TO COVER ITS FLANK WITH ECUADOR IN THE EVENT OF PERU/CHILE HOSTILITIES. ON THE LATTER SCORE RAMIREZ EXPRESSED STRONG DOUBT THAT PERU WOULD ATTEMPT TO RECOVER ITS LOST TERRITORIES FROM CHILE BECAUSE HE FELT THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD BRING A STRONG REACTION FROM POWERFUL COUNTRIES OPPOSED TO PERUVIAN AIMS, SUCH AS BRAZIL.

5. COMMENT: WHILE THE EVENTS DESCRIBED TO US BY OUR ECUADOREAN SOURCES APPEAR TO REPRESENT AN IMPORTANT CONCESSION IN PRINCIPLE BY PERU TO ECUADOR, THE PRACTICAL CONSEQUENCES, IF ANY, ARE DIFFICULT TO GAUGE AT THIS POINT. IN ANY EVENT, WE STRONGLY DOUBT THAT EVEN IF PERUVIAN-ECUADOREAN TALKS ON THIS SUBJECT PROGRESS FURTHER, THE PERUVIANS WILL BE LIKELY TO MAKE ANY SIGNIFICANT TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS. WHILE ADMITTABLY SPECULATIVE, SEEMS TO US A MORE LIKELY MEANS OF REACHING AGREEMENT WILL BE FOR ECUADOR AND PERU TO DECIDE UPON A DEMARCATION LINE WHICH PERMITS ECUADOR TO AT LEAST TOUCH UPON THE WESTERN PART OF THE MARANON RIVER, A TRIBUTARY OF THE AMAZON. WERE THIS TO HAPPEN, ECUADOR AT LEAST WOULD BE VINDICATED IN UPHOLDING ITS PRINCIPAL PUBLIC CLAIM,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 QUITO 00564 232007Z

HOWEVER FEEBLE, THAT IT IS AN AMAZONIAN NATION--AND AT RELATIVELY LITTLE EXPENSE TO PERU WHICH PRESUMABLY HAS ITS OWN REASONS FOR SEEKING TRANQUILITY ON ITS NORTH FLANK.
NEGRONPONTE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, BOUNDARY CLAIMS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975QUITO00564
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750026-0528
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750126/aaaaawzz.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 QUITO 0213
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECUADOR/PERU BORDER SITUATION
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, EC, PE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006